

25X1A

Approved For Release 09/09/09 : CIA-RDP82-00457R0073006100

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 25 APR 51

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO

COUNTRY Costa Rica/Mexico

SUBJECT Communist Party Activities

PLACE
ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO.

25X1Å

25X1X

1. In a letter from Rodolfo Guzman, dated 2 March 1951, Mexico City, addressed to the "Esteemed Comrades" of the Partido Vanguardia Popular of Costa Rica, sent in care of Ruth Carrasquilla in San Jose, Guzman complained bitterly of not being told what was going on in Costa Rica. The letter is quoted in part below:

"What has happened with the Fernandez Prestinari law? Is it necessary to continue with the solidarity campaign? No one tells me anything. I have not even received one copy of Trabajo. Recently I happened to read some Costa Rican newspapers and found two matters of importance: women's suffrage, and the formation of a new central labor union. What does it take for you to keep me informed of what happens? Are criticisms and censure all that is necessary for me to fulfill my duties here? It is not for my personal interest but for the Confederacion de Trabajadores de America Latina (CTAL) that there should be an abundance of information concerning our country."

2. Guzman mentioned having spent one hundred pesos in notary fees in the business transaction of the transfer of the Vanguardia gold collection in Mexico City, but he did not state whether the collection had been sold or not. Speaking of the projected Agricultural Conference in Mexico City, Guzman said: "The preparations for the Conference of Agricultural Workers and Farmers are continuing. At the last minute economic difficulties arose which are restricting our activities. If you can't send three delegates from Costa Rica, at least send one or two. It will definitely be from 2 to 6 May 1951."

3. Accompanying this letter were press clippings, "Declaraciones de Jose Stalin al Diario Pravda" from El Popular, 1 March 1951, and "La Mision Civilizadora del Gobierno de los EE. UU." por V. Lombardo Toledano, from El Popular, 2 March 1951.

4. [REDACTED] the reply to Guzman's letter written by Gonzalo Sierra Cantillo, Syndicate Secretary of the Partido Vanguardia Popular. Sierra explained the scarcity of letters by saying that there were times when he did not have sufficient money to buy a stamp. The leaders of the different syndicates, according to Sierra, are so terrorized that they do not even collect the dues from the workers. "My situation as an official is lamentable, as I don't receive more than 140 colones per month, and from this many times I have to take out for trips to the provinces and other expenses for stationery."

[illegible]

Document No. 007
No Change in Class. ☐
☐ Declassified
Class. Changed To: TS S (C)
Auth: HB 392
Date: 2 AUG 1978
CIA-RDP82-00457R007300610
By: ou

5. With reference to the Fernandez Prestinari Law, Sierra answered at some length, and portions of his explanation are as follows: "After the falling apart of Rerum Novarum, two new federations were formed: the Federacion Obrera Capitalina (FOC) and the Federacion de Trabajadores Bananeros (FETRABA); and the Union of Commercial Employees was set up directed by Roberto Guell. Although these organizations have little representation if it becomes necessary to have them intervene against the Prestinari law, we sent them a letter explaining the problem and we have succeeded in having them denounce the reforms to the Labor Code, principally against syndicate freedom; the pronouncements have been made in all the local newspapers and over some radio stations. Now we are getting ready to form a United Front against the reactionary reforms to the Labor Code. This committee will be formed under the proviso that this does not imply renunciation of ideological lines. What it means is that we will give battle to the owner class, to the capitalists, and to the imperialists on a single front."
6. Sierra's success in the banana region of Quepos, of which he wrote, has been partially confirmed by press notices, telling of demands of the Independent Unions of Communist Party banana workers submitted to the United Fruit Company which reportedly will affect twenty-five hundred workers. Of this trip Sierra wrote: "I went to the Atlantic zone, making tours of all the abaca fincas and holding a good assembly in each one. These tours had to be made in heavy rains, at night as well as by day, traveling on foot because the company, or rather the agent, gave the order not to permit me to travel by rail. Anyway, this trip was a success; we are preparing the way and the minds of the workers for what may be necessary. Only in Puerto Limon can nothing be done. The leaders abandoned their organizations and are united in their terror. Never have I seen such cowardly people as these."
7. According to Sierra, "four more comrades were jailed and sentenced." He named Jose Escamilla, a Salvadoran, whom the authorities "wish to throw out of the country," the others being Efrain Rodriguez, Adolfo Garcia, and one Barrantes whom source did not identify, except to say that he had heard that Barrantes was picked up by the police as he was leaving a meeting at the house of Manuel Mora, and that a few copies of Trabajo and a book on Lenin were found in his possession. The report that "the comrade, Manolo Canacho, had been murdered" was discounted by Sierra, who said that he had spoken with him a short time ago, and since the press had said nothing about it, it would be unusual if they missed an opportunity to print a murder story. Sierra also forwarded copies of El Grafico, which carried the resolutions of the Communist Party-dominated unions, or "Independent" syndicates passed at the National Conference held at San Jose on 13 and 14 January 1951.